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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

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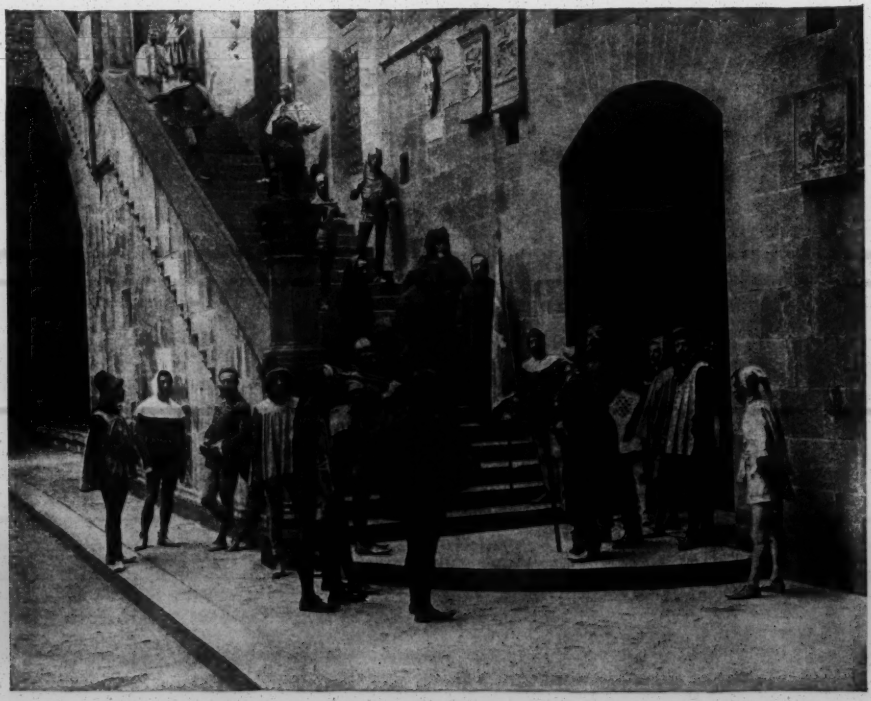

COSTUMES OF THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY: FLORENCE (See Bulletin No. 2)

During the thirteenth century the judicial functions of Florence were intrusted to the Podesta, a foreign nobleman of legal erudition, elected for a period of six months at first, which term was afterward increased to a year. In 1215 Florence became divided into two factions, the Guelphs and the Ghibellines, and their rivalries became so bitter that the people themselves, in 1250, organized a kind of national guard and first coined the golden florin, which soon was to become the world's standard of value. (See also Bulletin No. 1, November 15, 1920.)

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Luxemburg Joins Nations Represented at Washington

LUXEMBURG, latest and smallest of the countries of the world to send a diplomatic representative to the United States, has a ruler with a better popular title to her throne than perhaps any other reigning monarch.

Though the little grand duchy is smaller even than Rhode Island, it has a history reaching farther into the past than many of the great nations among whom it now takes a place. It has been buffeted about like a shuttle-cock by the countries that hem it in, and at one time or another during the past thousand years has been under the control of nearly every one of the principal nations of the western part of the Continent.

It started as a petty principality in the Holy Roman Empire, and though it has since lost territory it has gained prestige, being raised first to a duchy and finally to a grand duchy. It emerged with the latter title from the witches' cauldron of the Congress of Vienna in 1815 largely to mollify the king of the Netherlands, to whom it was assigned for the loss of other territory.

While a part of the Holy Empire, Luxemburg furnished an emperor for the German throne. Count Henry IV of Luxemburg was elected to that position in 1308 as Henry VII. Luxemburg later came under the control of Burgundy and then fell successively to Spain, Austria and the first French Republic. It remained under the sovereignty of the king of the Netherlands from 1815 to the accession of Queen Wilhelmina in 1890 when the existence of the Salic Law—that anti-feminist outburst of the old warrior Franks—brought the Grand Duke of Nassau to the throne.

Luxemburg Treaty "Scrap of Paper" to Germans

Even while the king of the Netherlands was sovereign of Luxemburg it was a member of the German Confederation, with the city of Luxemburg garrisoned by Prussian soldiers. Retention of this garrison in the city after the division of old Luxemburg between Holland and Belgium in 1831, and especially after the dissolution of the German Confederation in 1866, almost caused the Franco-Prussian War to start three years ahead of time. The matter was compromised by an agreement for the withdrawal of the German troops, and the demolishment of the fortifications of the city of Luxemburg—so strong that the fortress was known as "the Gibraltar of the North." In addition the grand duchy was set up as an independent state with its neutrality guaranteed, like that of Belgium, by the Powers. This guarantee was one of the "scraps of paper" of 1914.

During the World War Luxemburg was practically a prisoner to Germany, but because the inhabitants did not resist, the Germans treated them with a certain degree of consideration. The sympathies of the people were with France, however, and several thousand Luxemburgians served with the tricolor. This popular sympathy for France and the belief that the reigning

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A VIEW OF THE CITY OF BRUSSELS (See Bulletin No. 5)
The building with the tower is the Palace of Justice

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How Geography Shapes Italy's Destiny

ITALY'S peculiar geographic position always has been one of the chief sources of the country's remarkable individuality—an individuality marked by its political and economic course since the armistice was signed. Arthur Stanley Riggs, writing to the National Geographic Society in this regard, says:

"From the beginning Nature set Italy apart. Every boundary is perfectly clear. The historic seas enfold it to the south, east, and west. On the north the terrific Alps sweep around it in a great semicircle from Mediterranean to Adriatic, closing the circuit.

"To be sure, from the time of Augustus the boundary of each side of northern Italy has been juggled, now to the east, now to the west, by politics; but the physical boundary is still definitely there. So thoroughly did the ancient chroniclers recognize these natural limits that long before the name Italy had any political significance or entity the writers applied it to the country thus inclosed. The peninsula, with its tremendous Apennine backbone, makes a huge boot which thrusts out practically into the center of the great Midland Sea.

Exposed to Invasion From Three Sides

"Necessarily, then, Italy was exposed to attack and invasion from three sides. Indeed, it was the invading, or rather colonizing, Greek who combined with the aborigine to form the population that stocked the peninsula. Taken in a smaller way, geographical site or position exercised no less distinct an effect upon some of the foremost Italian cities; and in shaping their affairs and men it also influenced the entire world.

"Italy is generally regarded as lying in three parts—northern, central and southern. Nature has set no boundary between central and southern Italy; but from the southernmost point of the Alps, at the French frontier, the Apennines swing across to the eastward, leaving in the arc they cut a huge U-shaped basin, drained by the river Po and its tributaries, open to the Adriatic.

"After forming this basin—northern Italy—the Apennines sweep southward in a rugged backbone which determines the whole internal geography of the country as definitely as the Alps do its outline northward. The Apennines are not, however, merely a backbone, but a broad mass with several minor ranges and groups of peaks, generally separated by high upland valleys, one of whose plateaux, the Piano di Cinque Miglia, at a height of 4,298 feet above the sea, is the wintriest and bleakest spot in all Italy.

No Room For Rivers Between Mountain and Sea

"This upland region is bordered everywhere by lowlands of luxuriantly fertile character, prolific in fruit and verdure and of a genially warm and sunny climate.

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Grand Duchess, Marie Adelaide, had pro-German leanings made her unpopular. After the armistice brought about the retirement of the Germans, a bloodless revolution broke out, and Luxemburg added another to its long list of sovereignties by being a republic for a few brief hours. Conservative elements brought about the abdication of the Grand Duchess in favor of her sister Charlotte, the present ruler, and liberalized the constitution. Marie Adelaide has entered a convent and become a Carmelite nun.

Votes of Women Save Grand Duchess

Grand Duchess Charlotte probably has a more popular title to her throne than any other royal ruler. Suffrage in Luxemburg was made universal in the summer of 1919 and in September a plebiscite was taken on whether the reigning ruler should be retained, whether another grand duchess should be chosen, or whether a republic should be established. The vote resulted in an overwhelming majority in favor of the Grand Duchess Charlotte and it is believed that the votes of the women were largely responsible for the result.

Luxemburg would have been sold on one occasion to Napoleon III had not the gruff Bismarck interfered. Even the area of the duchy seems to have been "marked down" to catch the eye of some purchaser with a penchant for odd figures, for its area is 999 square miles. It is about the size of Rhode Island with the District of Columbia's area subtracted. A part of old Luxemburg, somewhat larger than the present duchy, was given to Belgium when that country was created in 1831, and is now the Belgian province of Luxemburg.

A Land of Vineyards and Mines

The Grand Duchy of Luxemburg is hemmed in on the west and north by Belgium, on the north and east by Germany, and on the south by pre-war France and the recovered French province of Lorraine. The southern part of the duchy is in the basin of the Moselle river. This section is the garden spot of Luxemburg, producing grain, vegetables and fruit. Grape culture is carried on to a considerable extent. In the table-lands of the interior cattle raising is an important activity. Industrially, Luxemburg is known chiefly for its iron and steel production, which in 1918 was valued at more than 450,000,000 francs, equivalent at par to more than $90,000,000.

The capital and chief city of the duchy, also Luxemburg, is built partly on the summit, partly at the foot of a cliff-rimmed plateau, and is partially encircled by rivers. Imposing viaducts lead to the higher part of the city where most of the public buildings are situated.

Like Switzerland, Luxemburg has more than one language. Some of the inhabitants speak German, some Low German, some French and some a mixture of Low German and French. It has no coinage of its own, except fractional coins, and the coins of all its neighbors may be found in circulation. French, however, has long been the official language and the franc the official monetary unit. The World War and the unpleasantness of the German occupation brought Luxemburg closer to France, and in the plebiscite of 1919 which ushered in universal suffrage, the Luxemburgians voted for an economic union with the Republic, which has since been effected.

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Mexico City: The Rome of the Americas

IN ALL the world one cannot find a more remarkable capital than Mexico City," says William Joseph Showalter, in a communication to the National Geographic Society.

"Situated in a valley whose floor is a mile and a half above the level of the sea, and whose borders are surrounded by towering mountains; located where the beautiful volcanoes, Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl, rear their snow-capped heads above the plain and stand eternal guard over it, its situation is one of rare beauty and grandeur. Its climate is mild, the temperature ranging from 35 to 70 degrees, with a mean of 65 degrees. No man sleeps without a blanket in Mexico City, nor needs an overcoat at midday.

When City Was a New World Venice

"Prior to the conquest the lakes of the Mexican Valley were extensive and the barges of the Aztecs sailed uninterruptedly from the gates of Chapultepec to Ixtapalapa. A large number of canals intersected the ancient metropolis of Tenochtitlan and connected with the lakes in the suburbs, making it a sort of new world Venice.

"In 1607 the celebrated Portuguese engineer Martinez undertook to drain the Valley of Mexico by cutting a canal through the mountains. The work, however, was largely a failure, since it drained only one small lake and an unimportant river, leaving lakes Texcoco and Chalco still perpetual menaces to the city.

"In 1879 a huge drainage canal 30 miles long was begun, which was completed in 1900, at a cost of about $8,000,000, American gold. Its completion removed the danger of inundations from Mexico City and solved the problem which occupied the thoughts and engendered the fears of the Aztecs as far back as 1449.

"Mexico City is the most complete mixture of the ancient and the modern to be found in the New World. The old city might date anywhere from the tenth century, from its appearance. The new city is ultra modern, and you step from the sixteenth to the twentieth century by walking across the street.

The Pennsylvania Avenue of Mexican Capital

"The parade ground of Mexico City is the Avenida de San Francisco. This short street extends from the Mexican White House to the Alameda, and is only about 24 feet from curb to curb. Here, at the approach of twilight, every smart equipage in the capital comes. Down one side of the street and up the other side moves the procession at a slow walk, while everybody looks at everybody else.

"As Avenida de San Francisco unites the old and the new cities, so does the Cinco de Mayo (Fifth of May) unite the cathedral, stateliest of all the religious edifices on the continent, with the National Theater, which was

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"In central Italy, west of the mountains, the valleys of the Arno and the Tiber—the only streams of importance—give the keynote to any geographic study of the region. Over on the eastern coast no rivers of importance can exist, because the mountains there approach too close to the sea, though the tortuous, mostly dry beds of the 'torrenti' scar every height.

"In this connection it is interesting to note that nowhere is the peninsula more than 150 miles wide, and generally not more than 100, while down in Calabria the width dwindles in two places to 35 and 20 miles respectively. One of the most inspiring views in the whole length of the country also displays this narrowness strikingly when, on a clear day, from the Gran Sasso, the highest point in the bleak Abruzzi Range, central Italy, at nearly 10,000 feet, one may look not only eastward over the Adriatic to far Dalmatia's rocky shores, but also westward over the mountain and moor, city and sandy coast, to the dim and misty blue of the Tyrrhenian Sea. In volcanic southern Italy, likewise barren of any great waterways, the Apennines break up into groups of hills and peaks, not usually so lofty as farther northward.

"Italy is fairly provided with deep-water seaports—Naples, Genoa, Spezia, the naval base, and Leghorn, on the western coast, and Venice, Ancona, and Brindisi, on the east. The rivers—except the Po—as may have been inferred already, are of little or no importance for navigation—a fact that Romans cleverly disposed of by building those beautiful and enduring military roads which to this day vein the whole length and breadth of the country—though the rapidity of their currents and the flashing, dashing cascades and 'torrenti' that come swirling into them make them highly picturesque and delightful as features of the landscape.

Chain of Lakes Linked by Tributaries of the Po

"What human being with a single spark of soul could fail to expand under the magic of that wonderful chain of lakes along her northern border—Garda, Idro, Iseo, Como, Lugano, Maggiore, Orta? These remarkable and exquisite sheets of water, formed by the tributaries of one single stream—the Po—sprawl about in tremendously deep valleys among towering hills of solid rock, while scattered among them are shallow little lakes entirely different in both character and aspect.

"Besides defining the limits of the country so clearly, Nature also bulwarked the long and tortuous Italian peninsula on the west with a host of rocky defenses in the sapphire waters of the storied Tyrrhenian Sea—Gorgona, of the suggestive name; rocky Capraia; Elba, of Napoleonic fame; the stony fleet of the little Ponzas; bold and rugged Ischia, with its castle on a big boulder; Procida likewise; humpbacked Capri, where 'that hairy old goat,' as Suetonius called the Emperor Tiberius, held his revels; the Aeolian or Lipari Isles, black monsters that spout fire and sing weird music to terrify the superstitious argonaut; magnificent Sardinia, with its little sister Corsica clinging to its coat-tails a step behind.

"As in the case of Japan, the surrounding sea makes a vast difference in the Italian climate. Judged by its position alone, the peninsula should be about the hottest part of Europe—it is only 90 miles from the southern shore of Sicily to Africa. But the twin seas and the ever snow-capped mountains temper the heat, and the regional peculiarities are such that we find Turin, for instance, colder in winter than Copenhagen, and Milan as warm in summer as Naples. These same striking differences characterize the vegetation also. North of the Apennines nothing will grow that cannot withstand sharp frosts, yet in virtually the same latitude the strip of coast called the Riviera di Genova sports luxuriant palms and cactus and olives, while oranges and lemons are the most important crops."

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A Volcanic Barnum and Bailey

YOUNG AMERICA will drop anything to run to a fire. In some parts of the world—Hawaii, for example—one also drops everything to run to a volcanic eruption, unless he already is too close for comfort. Then he runs from it.

Have you ever wondered what a volcano, in action, looks like? Here is a description, not by a scientist, but by a young Washington woman who went to Hawaii to live just before Mauna Loa's terrific eruption in 1919.

"It seems as if Hawaii, though small, must have just so much attention, and so ever so often she explosively projects herself into the arena of the world's happenings," wrote Mrs. Shirley Foster Allen. "Not content with her share in the 'Big Show' in Europe, she decided to stage a first-class side show all her own—and the two volcanoes, Mauna Loa and Kilauea, have certainly done their best to make it the 'biggest show on earth.'

Oahu, a "Baby Island" of Group

"Just a word about the geography of the islands. In the first place, so many people seem to think the word 'Honolulu' embraces all there is to the islands; and in the second place, the general conception seems to be that the volcano is located in Honolulu's backyard, as it were, and that we Honolulans take our daily exercise by running up to the crater every morning before breakfast. Honolulu is located on the island of Oahu, third island in size in the group, while the volcano, or rather volcanoes, are located on Hawaii, the largest and youngest island, with an area of more than 4,000 square miles, which lies nearly 200 miles southeast of Oahu. I might add that after making the trip from Honolulu to Hilo (the largest town on Hawaii) in one of the small inter-island steamers, one would be ready to aver that the big island was much farther removed than this.

"Although scheduled for performances every nine years, Mauna Loa took the volcanologists by surprise and gave her celebration several years too soon. Heralded by earthquakes and accompanied by a series of tidal waves and quakes, she has proceeded to give us the most spectacular exhibition within the memory of the oldest kamaainas (old residents).

"The first indication of volcanic activity was the presence of a peculiar cauliflower-shaped cloud hanging over the mountain. Three days later, on September 29, the whole heavens were lit up with an apricot glow when, from a huge vent in the mountain's side, a flood of molten lava was belched forth. Spreading out into a great shallow stream, it came roaring down the mountain slope, burning forests, carrying huge trees and immense boulders on its surface—sweeping everything before it. With a speed varying from one to twenty miles an hour, according to the country it was passing over, it broadened out until it was nearly a mile in width. After wiping out the government belt road, razing telephone poles and destroying a vast amount of property, the red-hot lava tumbled over a high precipice and plunged hissing into the sea.

Lava River Empties Into Ocean

"This outbreak was on the western slope of Mauna Loa, occurring at the 6,500-foot level, less than halfway to the top of the mountain whose rounded summit rises majestically 13,675 feet above the sea. This flow reached the ocean on the Kona coast of Hawaii near Alika, the small village for which it has been named. In its downward course, it followed the general direction of the 1916 flow, but was much more rapid in its progress, as it was only some 26 hours from the time of the outbreak until the first lava poured into the ocean. In the case of the earlier flow, a period of more than a day of apparent inactivity intervened between the gas explosion which tore the great hole in the mountain and the actual appearance of the lava.

"A number of excursions were made in October from Honolulu, and, in approaching the flow from the sea in the early evening, the glow from the lava was visible for many miles before Alika was reached.

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planned to be the most beautiful of all the amusement places in America. The Cinco de Mayo is the Wall Street of Mexico, and the buildings which line it are modern in every respect.

"The Paseo de la Reforma, extending from Chapultepec to the Avenida de Juarez, a short avenue connecting the Paseo with Avenida de San Francisco, is one of the finest driveways of the world.

"The city is full of interesting places. Whether it be the cathedral, which rears its majestic towers to heaven on the very spot where the sacred temple of the Aztecs stood, and where tens of thousands of human beings were sacrificed to the sun; whether it be the Hospital de Jesus, built on the site where Cortes and Montezuma first met, and supported to this day from the revenues of the estate of Cortes; whether it be the Jockey Club, housed in the beautiful House of Tiles; whether it be the bronze equestrian statue of Charles IV of Spain, declared by Humboldt to be second only to the statue of Marcus Aurelius at Rome, or whether it be Chapultepec, with its memories of the American triumph in Mexico, there is no place with more attractions from a historic standpoint than Mexico City.

Pawn Shop Is National Institution

"The national pawn shop is one of the unique institutions of the capital. It was founded by Pedro Jose Romero de Terreros, the owner of the fabulously rich mines at Real del Monte. Here money may be borrowed on chattels at very low rates of interest, and everything is pledged, from a pair of cock's spurs to an automobile and from a silver ring to an iron safe. The smallest loan made is 12 cents and the largest $4,000.

"From the American standpoint burial customs in Mexico are very strange. A grave may be rented in perpetuity or for a term of years. If the latter option is taken and the rent is not paid promptly at each recurring period, the bones of the occupant are ejected and thrown upon a great bone pile. These bones from time to time are cremated."

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ON THE CHINAMPAS CANAL, NEAR MEXICO CITY.

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Brussels: Capital of the Land of the Loom

BRUSSELS, conspicuous during the war, again became a center of world attention with the meeting there of the International Financial Congress. Brussels' fame rests partly on popular misapprehensions. Its name is linked with a carpet that is not made there, and also with a cathedral which, properly speaking, is not a cathedral at all, but a church—that of St. Gudule.

But even after deducting this much from Brussels' credit, enough remains to give it a foremost place among world capitals. Were the romantic adventures of the city cast into a "movie" scenario, the title might accurately be "From Swamp Dwelling to Petit Paris."

From Swamp to Civic Beauty

The seventh century village on the Senne, near the center of what now is Belgium, was called Brueselle, literally "swamp dwelling," with descriptive intent. The genius of a people for making much of meager physical circumstances fully warrants the nickname often given the modern city of parks, boulevards, art galleries and a famous university.

At the historic Brussels Conference in 1874 the city had a premonition of its tragic experience in 1914. The world's great powers, and many lesser ones, met there to discuss more humane usages in war. Prussia upheld the principle that citizens of a city—men, women and children—who resisted invasion of an enemy thereby rendered themselves liable to precisely the same treatment as their armed soldiery. England sided with the smaller nations in objecting to this proposal. Only thirty years later Germany illustrated her theory by her atrocities in Brussels.

Mounted Victims' Heads to Make a Holiday

Suffering was no new experience for Brussels. More than three centuries earlier its great square had seen Count Egmont and Count Horn walk to the scaffold, as the former recited the fifty-first Psalm, and a little later both heads were displayed to the assembled multitude on iron spikes. More gruesome still, both heads finally were boxed and sent to Philip II of Spain, so that latter-day Herod might exult at another victory over his northern subjects.

Though the Brussels carpet of modern times is not made in Belgium, Brussels was paid a deserved tribute in its naming, for when it first was manufactured at Wilton, England, the product was patterned after the tapestries for which Brussels was famous for centuries.

In addition to its weaving, Brussels gained renown for its lace-making, and its needle-made laces still find their way all over the civilized world, including a considerable quantity to the United States. The feminine culture of feudal times sought to express in the delicate designs of filmy fabric what men wrought in the lace-like architecture of its cathedrals.

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House-Sized Rocks Tossed Like Pebbles

"Drifting within 200 yards of the point where the liquid rock was rushing into the sea, the scene stretching before one was awe-inspiring. Slowly the smoky haze from the burning forests, which hung over the source 20 miles away, lifted and the river of fire stood out in its full glory, holding one speechless and spellbound. Leaping from pali to valley, rushing uphill and roaring down, the fiery flood thundered down the mountain slope, carrying on its bosom rocks as big as houses that were tossed about as if they were mere pebbles. As the stream of blazing lava neared the coast line, it appeared to gather more speed, taking the final plunge over a 100-foot cliff at a terrific rate, and looking for all the world like a fiery Niagara. As the red-hot lava came in contact with the water, great columns of steam and gas, like huge waterspouts, were forced hundreds of feet into the air. Huge boulders, hurled into space, exploded with thunderous reports into auras of red and green lights, while flashes of what looked like lightning added to the chaos.

"Miles up the mountain the lava stream became blocked, forming a great lake which spread out on each side, seeking a new point of egress. Suddenly, as if a giant hand had tipped the bowl, the lake overflowed. The whole heavens were lit up as the lava, like a great cataract, plunged and boiled over the cliff.

"As days passed by, the aspect of the flow gradually changed. Great banks of cooled and blackened lava were piled up on either side and the stream of pahoehoe (smooth lava) shrunk to a width of about 40 feet. Thus confined in a deep gorge, a river of swiftly moving molten stone sped silently, for ten consecutive days, toward the sea, building up the floor of the ocean into new land—and then it stopped. The volcanic fires died as suddenly, as mysteriously, as they had appeared, and standing on the still warm lava, gazing at that great black river bed, one can but marvel.

Molten Lava Plays Queer Pranks

"This outbreak was followed by several others at slightly higher elevations. The source of the second showed great activity, it was reported, fountains of lava 400 feet high being thrown into the air, while the flow equalled in magnitude that from the Alika crater. This flow became dammed up on the mountain's side and did not succeed in reaching the government road. Considerable pasture land was destroyed, however, and a small herd of cattle was imprisoned on an island between the fresh lava and the still hot Alika flow. The lava really plays some strange tricks on mankind. For instance, the flow was eating its way downward towards a koa mill which lay directly in its path. After burning the piles of lumber in the vicinity and lifting a 12-foot crane high in the air, the lava separated, surrounded the mill, and then crept on, leaving the building itself safe.

"Gradually all the craters on Mauna Loa have spent themselves, the last glow has faded from the skies, and the 1919 flow is dead.

"Kilauea has been extremely active lately and her spectacular pyrotechnics were not in the least diminished by the splendor of Mauna Loa. Halemaumau (House of Everlasting Fire), as Kilauea's fiery pit is called, is still overflowing, and all the old landmarks, such as the Devil's Kitchen, the postal-card cracks, etc., known to tourists the world over, have disappeared—buried beneath the flaming flood."

Bulletin No. 4, November 29,1920

Damp Cellars Enhance Miss America's Charm

Geography reinforced temperament, in this instance. It is not stretching a point to say that Miss America strolls along Fifth Avenue or Michigan Boulevard, on a sunny day, with a bit of lace giving a piquant touch to her tailored costume, because it is damp and dank in Belgium. The mere necessity for keeping one's hands busy on a day when rain engenders ennui played a part. Moreover, the process of retting flax, to separate fibre from core, requires the condition of moisture which can easily be had in a Belgian cellar.

In the time of Louis XIV, France was the rival of the Lowlands in lace-making, and so acute did the jealousy become that in 1670 thousands of crowns' worth of Flanders lace was burned by the hangman.

Women's Fingers Avert Industrial Disaster

After the blight of Philip's despotic rule, lace-making was the only industry that survived. Woman's fingers, it has been said, then saved Flanders from utter ruin. Even before 1914 visitors to Brussels were impressed by the participation of women in many occupations reserved to men in other lands—a condition deftly attained by women with their skill in the textile arts as the initial leverage.

The first-time visitor to Brussels may find himself beguiled to an "exhibition" of fabrics in some private home, only to learn that the "exhibition" is a display of laces for sale. The chances are he will find a bargain that will alleviate any irritation at this ingenious form of salesmanship.

Again he may be surprised to learn that the compact, neighborly Brussels ranks with Boston in population.

Bulletin No. 5, November 29, 1920

THE TOWN OF KODIAK, ALASKA, AFTER THE ERUPTION OF KATMAI (See Bulletin No. 4)

The town is 100 miles from the volcano, which, with the famous "Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes," has been the subject of study by five expeditions of the National Geographic Society. Note the heavy deposits of white ashes covering hillsides and town. Dust fell as far away as Juneau, Ketchikan, and the Yukon Valley, distant 750, 900, and 600 miles, respectively from the volcano. Kodiak was benefited by the volcanic eruption. The grass later grew through the ash better than ever before. The whole hillside came up to grass abundantly